THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY (SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR): (a) and (b) 31 waste-to-energy based power projects aggregating to 68.62 MW capacity in eight States and 36 demonstration wind power projects aggregating to 70.9 MW capacity in nine States have been set up with Central Financial Assistance from Ministry of New and Renewable energy. Moreover, commercial wind power projects of about 7844 MW capacity have been installed in the country through private investment.

(c) Resource Assessments are being carried out for power generation from wind and biomass resources in the country, including the backward and rural areas.

Wind-Solar hybrid system and biomass gasifiers and being installed for meeting the energy requirements in various States, including the backward and rural areas.

The Ministry is also implementing a programme for electrification of remote unelectrified census villages and unelectrified hamlets of electrified census villages through various new and renewable energy sources includng biomass resources such as crop residues and agro-industrial wastes.

(d) Central Financial Assistance of Rs.10.03 crore for waste-to-power projects and Rs. 1,900 crore for demonstration wind power projects has ben provided by the Ministry to various States during the last two years.

Working of APDRP

1020. DR. K. MALAISAMY: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) when the Accelerated Power Development Reforms Programme (APDRP) was introduced and what is the impact of the programme on States;

(b) whether it is a fact that many States including Tamil Nadu, despite the incentive given in this Scheme, did not complete the works as per schedule but extended them for years;

(c) if so, what are the specific reasons for such abnormal delay in execution;

(d) whether it is also a fact that there has been diversion of APDRP funds for unauthorized purposes and incorrect reporting of expenditure by States; and

(e) if so, the effective system introduced to arrest the wrong practices in existence?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE):(a) Government had launched Accelerated Power Development and Reforms Programme (APDRP) in the year 2002-03 with the objective of encouraging reforms and of reduction in Aggregate Technical and Commercial (AT&C) loss, improving quality of supply of power and improving consumer satisfaction. The target was to reduce AT&C losses to 15% in five years to begin with in urban and high density consumption areas. AT&C loss has come down in towns where APDRP has been implemented. Further, some of the utilities which adopted various interventions as envisaged under the programme have shown significant reduction in AT&C loss. At town level, AT&C losses have been brought below 20 per cent in 215 APDRP towns in the country of which 163 towns have brought AT&C losses below 15 per cent.

(b) Government of India had sanctioned projects amounting to Rs. 17033.58 crore under the investment component for strengthening and upgradation of sub-transmission and distribution systems of the States. The States have so far utilized Rs. 11279.50 crores. State of Tamil Nadu has utilized Rs. 724.14 crores out of the total sanctioned cost of Rs. 948.12 crores.

(c) There are delays in completion of the projects. The various reasons for delay in execution of projects are:

(i) Delay in processing the Notice Inviting Tender (NIT) for awarding the contacts by utilities.

(ii) Delay in awarding the contracts by utilities.

(iii) Delay in supply of equipments due to increased demand.

(iv) Poor response from the contractors, especially in North-Eastern states and Jammu & Kashmir.

(v) Delay in transfer of fund to the utilities by the States.

(vi) Heavy quantum of work which utilities were not geared up to handle.

(vii) Non-adoption of turnkey contract system by many utilities.

(d) and (e) Comptroller and Auditor General of India (C&AG's) in its Report No.16 of 2007 for the year ended March ' 2006 Union Government (Civil-Performance Audit) relating to "Performance Audit of Accelerated Power Development and Reforms Programme (APDRP)" has pointed out that there have been instances of diversion of funds and incorrect financial reporting by some of the States.

In view of the recommendations/suggestions of the various stakeholders including C&AG on the implementation of APDRP, the programme is proposed to be restructured with the revised terms and conditions during the Eleventh Five Year Plan to make it more effective.

Monitoring and evaluation of power projects

†1021. SHRI JAI PARKASH AGGARWAL: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government evaluates and monitors the power projects;

(b) if so, the details of evaluation of different projects completed, as on date;

(c) the outcomes thereof;

(d) the efforts made by Government in this direction on the basis of outcome of evaluations; and

(e) if not, the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE): (a) to (e) With the coming into effect of the Electricity Act, 2003 the techno-economic clearance (TEC) after the appraisal of the projects by Central Electricity Authority (CEA) is no longer required for thermal generation projects. Concurrence of CEA is now required only for setting up of Hydro electric schemes whose estimated capital expenditure exceeds the notified limits. In the year 2006-07 average time taken for according concurrence was reported as about 40 days which has come down to 30 days in 2007-08 (upto February, 2008).

For ensuring delivery of accelerated capacity addition as envisaged for the 11th Plan following monitoring mechanism has been evolved:

- Central Electricity Authority has a nodal officer associated with each on-going project which continuously monitors the progress as site through frequent visits and continuous interaction.
- Regular meeting are being organized in Ministry of Power with CEA, Central Public Sector Undertakings (CPSUs) and other stakeholders with a view to review the critical milestones associated with each on-going project.
- To strengthen the monitoring mechanism, steps have been taken to set up Power Project Monitoring Panel (PPMP).

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.